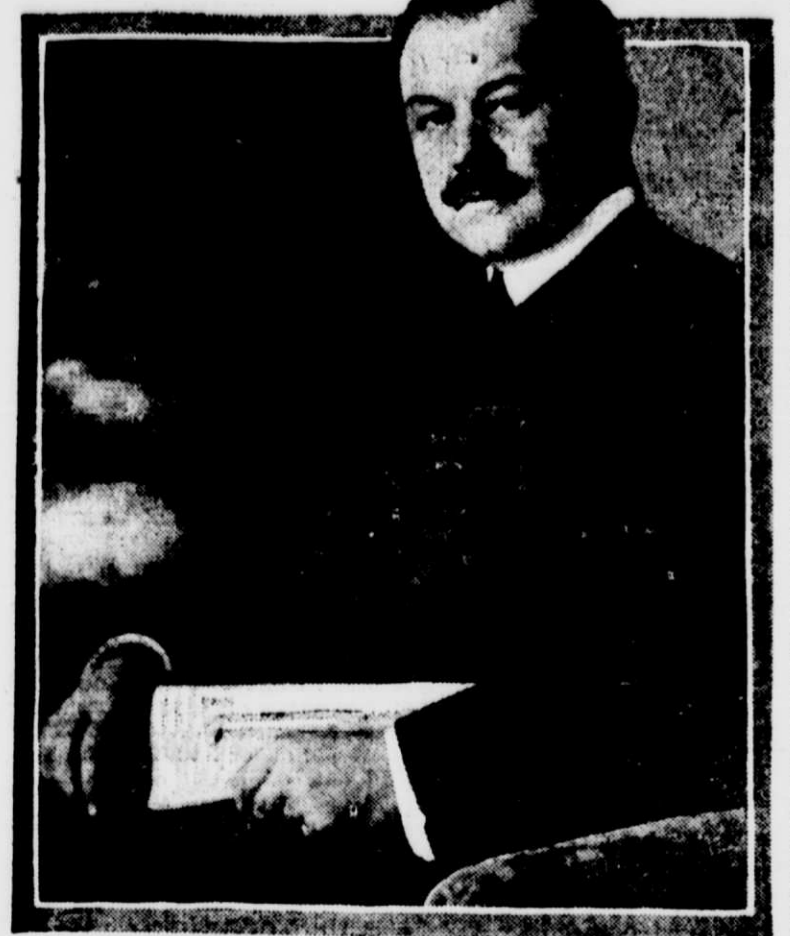


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Renaissance in Art to Follow War, Lehar Says



Alone at Last
Schön ist die Welt, wenn ein Mann an sich selbst denkt.
To the New York Sun
with kind regards
Lehar

Franz Lehar, the composer of "The Merry Widow," whose photograph is shown above, sends to THE SUN an extract from one of the songs in "Alone at Last," his latest operetta to be produced here, which he says expresses his views concerning the world war.

By DR. BELA SEKELY.
VIENNA, Dec. 19.—"European art and letters will emerge from the war purified from the feverish taste that characterized productions immediately antedating the great conflagration. We are at the threshold of a great renaissance that will grow out of the virility of the race, out of the self-abnegation and devotion displayed by all the peoples of Europe. The aesthetics of literature and the tendencies of art will be characterized by forcefulness, seriousness and depth. Music will rise to greater heights, leaving behind its former frivolity, and become the interpreter of what is best and purest in human hearts."

This is the prophecy made to me by Franz Lehar, composer of "The Merry Widow," "The Count of Luxembourg" and "Alone at Last." He was sitting at his desk in a studio on the top floor of a Vienna apartment house. The wall behind his chair was almost completely covered with flowing ribbons, blue and white and red, printed in gold—cherished souvenirs of his many triumphs. Lehar is modest in his manner and free from the least trace of affectation. He spoke with the earnestness that comes from conviction, and yet there played upon his lips a gentle smile that seemed to spring directly from the depths of his soul. "I strove even before the war," he said, "to avoid everything that was trivial. It has always been my ambition to compose something of absolute worth, something that would survive me. At present I am writing the music for a new operetta called 'The Astronomer,' which will have its first presentation in Vienna in January. Its hero is a scientist who, lost in the contemplation of the heavens, forgets his immediate surroundings. All the music in my life has been written for the stage. I am in this work, and I feel it carries me a long way toward the realization of my musical ambition."

"To tell the truth, at first I was loath to write an operetta in war time. Overwhelmed by the tragedy that befell mankind, I composed songs which reached the heart of the soldier, and the composer needs me by the war. But then I remembered that artistic work lies not in the form of its expression but rather in its quality. True, the operetta is a shallow and vulgar, while noble opera may be full of meaning and in exquisite taste. So much sadness has come over the world these days and at the same time so much has happened that is elevating—the simple joy of our soldiers or the proud courage of our women—that the writer's fancy needs only to transmute into the words of the stage just a few touches of the world as it exists to-day in order to create a beautiful story, and the composer needs only to listen with his soul to the spirit of the time in order to reach grandiose and noble emotions."

Opposes Extra Numbers.
"My mind the operetta is essentially a play set to music. This idea of mine has been many a manager who has believed that the operetta is a play set to music. Such is not the case, for my operetta is all through a sparkling affair, where, as in nature, rain is followed by sunshine and a change by joy. But there is one sort of thing I have always carefully omitted in my operetta, and that is musical insertions which have nothing whatever to do with the action of the play. To me there is nothing more disturbing than a so-called extra number wrung into the action of the operetta. This is a custom distinctly of American origin, though it has been generously imitated on the European stage. "I believe that the music of the operetta should never stand still; that as it interprets the action it should always follow it, or rather keep abreast of it in its changing moods and moods and pace, otherwise it can be of no interest to the audience. The operetta ought to reflect real life and the people upon the stage should be like ourselves. Improbabilities destroy the illusion, hence they ought to be shunned. Indeed, the operetta, as all real works of art, must be true to life."

"Does not the fact of the war not speak but sing in the operetta destroy the illusion?" I interposed.
"But then Wagner, too, would be impossible. Music is bathed in poetry. Innermost emotions, which words cannot express, find expression in music. It is for this reason that music in the operetta form ought to interpret the action. A certain tune suits only a certain situation, and what force it is to apply it indiscriminately to new words or to another story? Music and words must be of a piece, ought to come from the same mould."

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"THE PIANO HOUSE OF BROOKLYN" is the term that has been applied to Loeser's in compliment. It is, we believe, a deserved compliment, since the musical service provided here is complete in every essential. It cannot be excelled in quality of instruments, in range of prices, in willingness to grant every possible concession to make easy for you the purchase of any musical instrument you want. Six famous Pianos and Player-pianos are represented here; each the make which careful tests convinced us is best at its price. All were chosen without bias, since we own no interest in any Piano factory or firm.

Pianos—Players
Six makes—Kranich & Bach, Estey, Gabler, Francis Bacon, Blum Bros., and Gordon & Son. Prices for Upright Pianos from \$198 up; for Player-pianos from \$395 up.

Double guarantee—that of the responsible maker and that of Loeser's. Without question the strongest guarantee given in New York and one which protects you against every cause for dissatisfaction.

Within the scope of the Six Famous Pianos offered here is everything any home requires. Less than \$198 is too little to pay for a Piano. More than \$1,250 (the price of the Kranich & Bach Grand Player) is hardly necessary even for the most luxurious home.

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A distributor's complete stock of Victor Records and Victrolas; a force of musician-salespeople to advise you in making a wise purchase; plenty of comfortable, sound-proof demonstration rooms; assurance that every Victrola and every Record we sell is perfect. That is a brief statement of the principles on which Loeser Victor Service is founded.

We can supply any Victrola in any usual finish and any Victor Record the factory is able to furnish. The service is throughout as intelligent, as efficient and as thoroughly satisfactory as any Victrola will require.

It saves time, patience and actual cash to make a point of buying all your Victor Records at Loeser's.

Your Own Terms—In Reason

A plan of sale which is original here and which adapts itself admirably to any requirement. Come to Loeser's—see the instruments—choose the type you prefer—determine upon a plan of purchase, even fixing yourself the sum to be paid down and the sums to be paid monthly. Unless your plan is beyond all bounds of good business, we will accept it.

This is a more advantageous purchase plan than most Piano houses will accept. Instead of telling you what you MUST pay, we invite you to tell us what you WISH to pay.

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OLD-EST BRITISH SOLDIER 70.

He's Probably More, but Doesn't Know—Son, 40, Also in Ranks.
LONDON, Dec. 26.—Although he must be well over 70 years of age, Private Bill Hall of the Royal Engineers is fighting against the Germans with the British army in France.

His approximate age—he does not know it exactly—has just been found out by his comrades as a result of the discovery that he has a son also at the front who is 49 years of age.

Sergeant W. Flux, of Hall's company, who is himself beyond middle age, writes: "The most remarkable man out here is Bill Hall, an old soldier like myself, who enlisted as 47 years of age, but when he produced his marriage certificate we found he was married in 1861, and we have since discovered that his son is aged 49. He is a marvel for work, and he has never once fallen out, though we were marching and fighting once for five days on end."

"The soldiers have found out about him, and wherever you are you can hear such remarks as 'Where's old Bill?' 'Good old Bill!' 'Stick it, Bill!' and so on. So far as we are able to figure it out, Bill must be well over 70 years old."

TO BAR WOMEN FROM EGYPT.
Even Passports Already Issued May Be Made Invalid.
LONDON, Dec. 31.—The Egyptian winter season, which last year was badly interrupted by the war, will be greatly restricted this year owing to new regulations by the British military authorities to reduce the number of visitors.

In view of the large number of women who have proceeded to Egypt, the wives of officers greatly swelling the usual stream of English and American visitors, it has been decided at the request of the general officer commanding that until further notice no new passports will be issued to women to enable them to travel to or winter in the land of the Pharaohs.

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Frederick Loeser & Co. BROOKLYN—NEW YORK

Furs! Of Quality Of Fashion Great Midwinter Clearance at Very Low Prices

NO WOMAN who sees these Furs will forget this sale as long as Furs are worn.
It is a sale of unusual importance because of the character of the Furs as well as because of the exceptionally low prices.
Even at the least price they are characteristic of the Loeser standard in quality, appearance and service. They are Furs that any woman may wear with credit. They are priced as they probably cannot be again until after several seasons of world peace.
Every garment is made of carefully chosen skins. Every garment is in a most fashionable design. Every garment is made and finished with care added to exceptional skill.
These are the bare details of a sale that should be of absorbing interest to every woman who can use Furs of any kind. A detailed listing of some of the more important elements of the sale follows:
\$45 to \$395 Fur Coats at \$29 to \$295.
\$15 to \$150 Fur Muffs at \$10 to \$95.
\$22.50 to \$295 Fur Sets at \$15 to \$150.
\$10 to \$115 Fur Scarfs at \$5 to \$95.
Second Floor.

Brocaded Velvet Chiffons. Printed and Brocaded Chiffons

Incomparable Low Prices. Lace Store Clearance
49c to \$3.98 for \$1.29 to \$13.98 Chiffons
AMONG THE ASSORTMENTS are some pretty gold and silver combinations of attractive two-tone patterns, fancy stripes, dainty floral patterns, Oriental designs, plaids and Persian effects in a varied range of colorings and color combinations.
All are in the full double widths, and with the exception of a few pieces were imported for this season at the full prices mentioned above.
Tomorrow we shall sell them in the Lace Store, lengths of from one yard up, at 49c, to \$3.98 a yard.
29c. to \$12 Gold and Silver Laces, 19c. to \$3.98
All Beaded and Bugle Laces, Some Set With Rhinestones
Main Floor. None Sent C. O. D.

\$5 to \$8.50 Blouses at \$2.95

THE GREATER PORTION of this great purchase has fallen within this class. Many women will think they represent the best values, though not the lowest prices.
Probably the handsomest Blouses ever shown at less than \$5 to \$8.50, or even higher. They are made of the finest materials:
Silk shadow laces
Silk chiffons and lace
Lacy Novelty Crepes
Genuine Grenache Crêpe
Pussy Willow Silks
Elegant Crepes de Chine
Suit Colors in Silks and Grenache
They are in evening styles combining the delicate new pastel tones with rich laces. They are semi-tailored for wear with tailored suits. Many are hand-embroidered. Some are loaded. A number combine two fabrics. Some are fur trimmed. Little refinements of decoration such as tiny jet and jewel buttons, ball ends to ties, exquisitely fine vestees and collars.
Second Floor.

35c. Printed Chiffon Voiles, 19c

OFFERING OPPORTUNITY for the selection of new printed fabrics for spring at exceptional price advantages. Chiffon Voiles in white, pink, blue and Nile grounds with attractive floral printed designs in contrasting colors.
Thirty-nine inches wide and regularly sold for 35c. a yard.
Second Floor.

Women's \$6 Boots for \$3.35

Unmatched Style : : Unmatched Value
AT THE SIX DOLLAR PRICE these Boots were as fine as any footwear ever sold for the money.
At tomorrow's special \$3.35 price they are a splendid investment for any woman who has use for an extra pair of fine Shoes at this time.
Fine calf-skin Walking Shoes with Havana brown buckskin tops, Button model, narrow, plain toes. Soles are light weight, welted and stitched, close trimmed. Spanish Louis heels. A fair range of sizes.
Main Floor. Elm Place.

Clearance Sale of 275 Winter Suits

SIZES FOR WOMEN AND MISSES
SUITS THAT WILL be wearable every day of January and February and far into March, a consideration when Easter this year falls nearly at its latest limit.
Values that will be remembered long after the Suit has been worn out and prices that will also make a lasting impression.
\$7.75 for Suits, Were to \$20
Frocks, fancy Scotch and heather patterns, tweeds, gabardines and serges, black and the approved dark colors.
Not many of a kind and a variety of the best faked styles of the season. Black and the approved darker shades. All sizes for women and misses in the lot not in every style. Some sent C. O. D. No mail or telephone reservations.
Second Floor, Elm Street.

January Sale of Framed Oil Paintings

Reductions of a Full Third
AMONG THE COLLECTION this year are Paintings by some of the foremost French, Italian, Belgian, German and Austrian artists, as well as a splendid representation of the work of American painters.
Prices are
\$13.66 to \$1,000 Instead of \$20 to \$1,500
There is a diversified range of subjects such as will appeal to all art lovers, appropriately framed, and bearing the signatures of such men as:
G. Boucard
E. Paul
M. Jensen
E. Costa
J. Rollins
G. Anglade
J. Alsina
M. H. Lovell
M. Rousseau
F. Brissot
E. Chaboussou
E. Barbary
S. Muschamp
R. L. Johnston
G. Manhart
Framed Paintings at \$5, \$7.50, \$10 and \$15
Now Offered at Fourth Off of These Prices
A limited number of Paintings by English and American artists. Each one in a shadow box.
Third Floor.

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